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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT - MAY 21 - MAY 27

1. MAY ROUND. THE NEGOTIATORS COMPLETED THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WHICH COMMENCED MONDAY, MAY 9. ISSUES DISCUSSED INCLUDED LANDS AND WATERS (WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF HOUSING FOR CANAL COMPANY EMPLOYEES), THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL OPERATE THE CANAL DURING THE NEW TREATY, AND MATTERS AFFECTING CIVILIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPLOYEES OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY/CANAL ZONE GOVERN-MENT. THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE LANDS AND WATERS ISSUES. THE NEGOTIATORS MET MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK BUT HAVE RECESSED FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. DISCUSSIONS WILL RESUME MAY 31.

2. MEDIA REACTION. THE MEDIA WHICH REGULARLY COVER THE

STATE DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFINGS ASK ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS IF THERE IS ANY NEWS ON THE PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THE ANSWER GIVEN IS THAT THE MEETINGS CONTINUE TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS "OPEN, CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE."

THURSDAY'S WASHINGTON STAR CARRIED A STORY HEADLINED "CONGRESSMEN ASK COURT TO HALT CANAL TREATY TALKS." THE

EIGHT-PARAGRAPH STORY CONCERNS SIX MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE "URGED THE SUPREME COURT TO STEP IN BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH TO STOP U.S. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW TREATY GOVERNING THE PANAMA CANAL."

- 3. SPEECHES. ARA/PAN STAFF MEMBER JOHN BECKER DEBATED THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS ISSUE MAY 23 WITH NICHOLAS NONNENMACHER OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINES AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE STAFF IN MIAMI. THE PROGRAM WAS ONE OF A SERIES ARRANGED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS. THE AUDIENCE WAS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PANAMANIAN EXILES AND SEVERAL KNOWN TREATY OPPONENTS. A COUNCIL POLL OF THE AUDIENCE INDICATED THAT MANY WHO ATTENDED FOUND THE PRESENTATIONS TO BE INFORMATIVE, ALTHOUGH NONE OF THOSE RESPONDING TO THE POLL CHANGED HIS POSITION AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAM. THE MEETING RECEIVED GOOD PUBLICITY FROM THE MIAMI MEDIA.
- 4. CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS. ON MAY 26 AND 27, JUST PRIOR TO THE CONGRESSIONAL MEMORIAL DAY RECESS, AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ BRIEFED SELECTED MEMBERS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND STAFF OF BOTH HOUSES ON THE STATUS OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THOSE CONSULTED INCLUDED SENATORS ROBERT BYRD, CRANSTON, AND SARBANES; REPS. FASCELL AND BUCHANAN; AND STAFFERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS, HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEES. VANCE

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